

REMARKS

Applicant acknowledges that claims 2-6 are currently pending and that claim 1 has been cancelled. Applicant also acknowledges the withdrawal of the earlier indication of allowability of claims 3 and 4 which have now been rejected based upon the newly cited reference Miyajima et al U.S. Patent No. 6,397,884.

The rejection of claims 2-4 and 6 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Miyajima et al is respectfully traversed.

Applicant wishes to point out to the Examiner that Miyajima fails to disclose the following features claimed in independent claim 3: (1) a valve housing section disposed between a pipe insertion section side end of the tube connection section and that pipe insertion section; (2) an inner diameter of the valve housing section being larger than the inner diameter of the tube connection section; and (3) a valve seat surface formed on the inner surface of the housing between the tube connection section and the valve housing section. Moreover claim 3 has been further amended to identify the main valve body as including a closing section having an outer perimeter section and an abutting surface formed on the outer perimeter section and abutting the valve seat section. This feature is also not shown in Miyajima.

Since Miyajima does not teach the above features the rejection of claim 3 as being anticipated by Miyajima et al should be withdrawn.

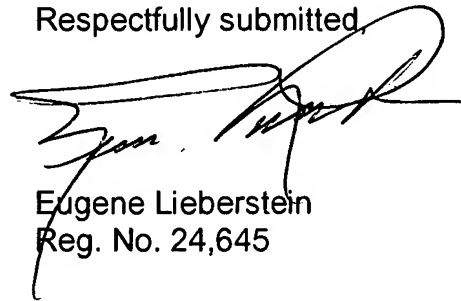
Claims 2,4 and 6 are dependent claims which depend from claim 3 and are believed to be patentable for the same reasons as given above.

The rejection of claim 5 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyajima et al as applied to claims 2-4 and 6 in combination with the teaching of Brown U.S. Patent 4, 474,189 or JP11002348A is respectfully traversed.

Claim 5 is a dependent claim which depends from claim 3 and which is clearly patentable over Miyajima et al for all of the reasons given above. Additional features in claim 5 are also not taught in Brown '189 or JP11002348A. Accordingly claim 5 is believed patentable over Miyajima et al when taken by itself or in combination with Brown and/or JP11002348A.

Reconsideration and allowance of claims 2-6 is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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MAILING CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria VA 22313-1450 on 16 March 2006.


Nel Leonie